



Town of Concord

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OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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CONCORD RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING SIGN BYLAW

CONCORD, MA—With regards to recent news stories regarding the placement of signs on public property, the Town of Concord would like to respond by reminding residents that the Building Commissioner enforces sign policies including Administrative Policy and Procedure (APP) #48 and the Sign Bylaw that was adopted in 1971 and amended most recently in 2010 by a vote of Town Meeting. If a complaint about a sign is brought to the Town's attention, the Building Commissioner is authorized by Town bylaws and policies to consider 1) whether the sign is on private property or in the public right of way; 2) if in the public right of way, the duration of time the sign has been posted. The content of signs posted on private property or in the public right of way is not relevant.

"The intent of the sign regulations, relative to placement in the public right of way, is to avoid the perception that the Town is taking a position on an issue" said Town Manager Christopher Whelan. "Residents are free to post signs with political or charitable speech on their own property as they wish."

Signs related to realty or tradesmen are allowed to be posted in the public right of way in front of private property for the duration of the work being done on that property. Signs on private property, or commercial property with the owners' permission, are not limited. APP #48 permits up to four signs at a time for a period of two weeks on the small island in Concord Center and on the sidewalk in front of the 99 Restaurant; these are the only two public spaces available and are arranged on a first come first served basis through the Town Manager's Office. No signage is permitted on traffic islands, intersections, roundabouts, rotaries, or the space between a sidewalk and the roadway.

The Building Commissioner will respond to complaints of improper signage, which can be made by calling the Building Inspections Division (978) 318- 3280, or by using the SeeClickFix application found on the Town's website.

The Town of Concord adheres to the bylaws that are agreed upon by votes of Town Meeting. The Town makes decisions based upon the content of those bylaws, as they have been publicly debated and voted upon by a majority of voting members at a Town Meeting.

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